

## **National English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association 2018 Annual Meeting**

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at the Holiday Inn Express in Cambridge, MD on December 9, 2018 at 4 p.m.

### ***Roll Call and Determination of Quorum***

A roll call was taken. Delegates for forty-seven clubs were present which constitutes a quorum.

### ***Acceptance of Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting***

#### **Motion**

**It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the 2017 meeting as published and distributed be approved.**

**Motion approved**

### ***Presidents Message***

Mike Wallace welcomed delegates to Cambridge, MD. More info on the trial will be given at the end of the meeting.

### ***Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report***

#### **Motion**

**It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's 2017 report as published and distributed be approved.**

**Motion approved**

### ***Election of Officers***

Steve Beyer, chair of the nominating committee which included Gary Wilson, Paul McGagh, Dean Koehler, Ben Martin. Steve stated that the Rocky Mountain Interclub will be hosting the National Open in both 2019 and 2021. Gary Riddle will be the chair of the 2020 National Open which will be held in the western interclub. The Kansas club has volunteered to host the 2021 national in Kansas.

**Steve made a motion to elect the following slate by acclamation:**

President	Don Bramwell
First Vice President	Gary Riddle
Second Vice President	Steve Seltzer
Secretary/Treasurer	Mhari Peschel

It was seconded. **Motion approved.**

### ***Announcement of Judges for the 2019 National Open Championship***

Mhari Peschel announced that the judges for the 2019 National Open would be Dan Lussen and Gary Riddle.

### ***Member Club Dues for 2019***

#### **Motion**

**It was moved and seconded that member club dues for 2019 be \$75.00 per club.**

**Motion unanimously approved**

### ***Presentation of Location for the 2019 National Open Championship***

Mhari Peschel presented a proposal from Don Bramwell outlining his plans for the 2019 National Open. Grounds will be available in Zenda and Hutchinson, Kansas. The Field Trial Chair will be Rick Shively. The proposed starting date is Thursday, November 21, 2019. The headquarters hotel will be in Hutchinson, Kansas. There has been a committee formed to make the final grounds selection prior to the event. The committee will make its final grounds selection based on the best possible grounds available for the trial and the safety of our dogs.

Mhari Peschel noted that there was a budget attached to the proposal which estimated what entry fees could be based on entry numbers of 120, 110 and 100 entries.

**It was moved and seconded to accept the proposal made by Don Bramwell.**

Gary Wilson talked about forming a committee to walk the grounds and to give the go ahead to use the grounds considering possible existence of dangerous seeds. Mike Wallace noted that the proposal included a committee to do just that but maybe the role of a committee in the future could even be expanded.

John Meyer stated that at the NAC in 2019 he plans to use an agronomist to survey the fields and make a report, which will be available to all, identifying the types of grasses and the existence, if any, of potentially dangerous grasses. They have many options in

Pyramid State Park and they will not use any areas that have been identified as potentially dangerous.

**A vote was taken and the motion to accept the location and date for the 2019 National Open was passed.**

### ***Qualification for the 2019 National Open***

It was stated that the current number of points for qualification is 3 points.

Gary Wilson noted that perhaps we should reduce the qualification points since our trials are getting smaller. An increased entry could spread the cost of the trial over more dogs and reduce the required entry fee.

Gary Breitbarth stated that if we are really looking for the best dogs in the country why not increase the point requirement.

Jason Givens noted that we talk about lowering the qualification to make ends meet but we actually have been doing just fine financially without more dogs. It was also noted that maybe we need to require more points to keep dogs entering trials to help improve participation in local trials.

Bill Cosgrove noted that the AKC statistics show a decline in entries for springer spaniels so perhaps the lower participation is related to the decline in our sport rather than a point requirement.

**Gary Wilson moved that the point requirement be two points for the 2019 National Open. Bill Boeckman seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed 30 to 17**

### ***Entry Fees for the 2019 National Open***

Gary Wilson suggested that the entry fee be kept at \$235. Mhari Peschel noted that the budget shows a net cost of \$277 per entry which includes some fundraising. The proposal was suggesting a \$260 per entry fee.

Gary Wilson noted that the Rocky Mountain area has been very successful in fund raising in prior years which could make up the difference.

Mhari asked Cristy Joy, the fundraising chair for 2019, if she felt comfortable making up the approximately \$40 per entry in fundraising. She felt that she could develop and expand the fundraising efforts to cover that amount.

**It was moved and seconded that the entry fee be \$235.00. Motion passed.**

There was discussion about keeping the closing schedule of 18 days and 11 days. With a start date of November 21, 2019 the 18/11 closing dates would be Sunday November 3 and Sunday November 10. The Sunday date would allow for entry from trials that

conclude on that date. Mhari Peschel also noted that she plans on continuing to offer both Hunt Secretary and mail in options for entries.

### ***Time for Annual Meeting for 2019***

The time and place of the annual meeting will be 4:00 p.m. on November 20, 2019 at the headquarters hotel.

### ***Other Business***

#### **HOF Selection Committee**

Steve Beyer stated that Jerry Cacchio's term as the NOC representative to the Hall of Fame Selection Committee had expired and he was suggesting the Jim Keller be elected to replace Jerry.

**It was moved and seconded that Jim Keller be the NOC representative to the Hall of Fame Selection Committee. Motion approved.**

#### **Warm Weather Trials**

Mike Wallace brought up the problems that are often caused by the warm weather trials. He noted that at an early fall trial this year they were taking the temperatures of dogs as they completed running the thirds series. The temperatures were often 107 degrees or even in some cases 108 degrees. These can be very dangerous situations for dogs .

Gary Wilson noted that with the technology now available on our phones perhaps participants should be looking at the forecast temperatures for upcoming trials and if they are forecasted to be too hot they should make the decision not to enter.

Bill Boeckman noted that you are worried about the dangers of warm weather trials but what about the dangers of driving to late season nationals.

Deb Olszewski noted that her local trial is early and is often one that is noted as a hot weather trial. Their club deals with it through preparation and education. They provide lots of water, tanks and a river is available to cool dogs. She noted that often the problem is that the participants don't adequately prepare their dogs for the conditions and often don't adequately cool their dogs after a run. This is as big a part of the problem as the weather at the trial itself.

There was additional discussion regarding the timing of the nationals and why couldn't they be held in October. Steve Beyer reminded the delegates that years ago there had been a suggestion that the qualification period by July to July and that the nationals could be held at the best time for the region without affecting the entries in local trials to the degree it does now. Steve asked if that could even be considered.

Bill Boeckman asked if it would be easier for the secretary if the qualification period was something like the July to July. Mhari Peschel responded that yes it would be easier.

### **Seed Committee**

Steve Beyer commented that there had been a lot of conversation about bad seeds. He wondered if the National would be willing to help fund an agronomist to survey grounds in different areas of the country where we hold trials and identify the potential dangerous seeds and provide information with respect to mitigation of those seeds.

Mike Wallace noted that a lot of states have a service that will do that for free if they are asked.

It was noted that if this is the case could there be a committee formed to look at different options available to clubs to have their grounds reviewed in this way.

Holly Boggess volunteered to lead a steering committee whose goal would be to Develop a protocol for clubs, be they national or local, to evaluate the trial grounds, identify issues and provide mitigation recommendations if necessary as well as protocols to educate participants with respect to steps to be taken after possible exposure to seed dangers in order to mitigate future health issues.

### **Field Trial Chairman's Presentation**

Dan Lussen welcomed the participants to Cambridge and gave information about parking, shuttle usage, courses and airing areas. The trial will start at 8 sharp and reminded folks to please respect the property which the landowner has allowed us to use.

**It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

